

OLPIUM L. KOCH, 1873 (ARACHNIDA, PSEUDOSCOPIONIDA,
OLPIIDAE): PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF TYPE SPECIES AND
RELATED PROBLEMS. Z.N.(S.)2484

By M. S. Harvey (Division of Entomology, CSIRO, GPO Box 1700,
Canberra, A.C.T., Australia) and V. Mahnert (Muséum d'Histoire naturelle,
Genève, Switzerland)

The pseudoscorpion species described in the work *Description de l'Égypte ou recueil des observations et des recherches qui ont été faites en Égypte pendant l'expédition de l'armée française* have generally been ascribed to Savigny. However, while Savigny was responsible for publishing the first eight plates of the work some time prior to 1826 (possibly in 1812, see Sherborn, 1897), and was responsible for naming the species treated in the first four plates (Bonnet, 1945), there is no doubt that the name *Chelifer hermannii* (along with the other two species) was established, in the meaning of Article 50 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, by Audouin in 1826. *Chelifer hermannii* Audouin, 1826, is a junior homonym of *Chelifer hermanni* Leach, 1817, and Simon (1879) provided the replacement name *Olpium savignyi* Simon, 1879.

2. L. Koch (1873) erected the genus *Olpium*, with four included species, *Olpium dimidiatum* L. Koch, 1873, *Olpium chironomum* L. Koch, 1873, *Olpium graecum* L. Koch, 1873, and '*Olpium Hermannii* Sav.' (i.e. *Chelifer hermannii* Audouin, 1826), but did not designate a type species. Simon (1879) by subsequent designation fixed *Chelifer hermanni* Savigny *sensu* L. Koch as the type species of *Olpium* L. Koch, 1873, noting that Koch's description of that species did not agree with Savigny's (i.e. Audouin's). At the same time he suggested that this species could be identified as *Obisium pallipes* Lucas, 1849. That view also has been generally accepted, and *Obisium pallipes* Lucas, 1849 has been consistently treated as the type species of *Olpium* L. Koch, 1873. *Olpium pallipes* Lucas, [1846] has been mentioned in the literature many times, and is widely distributed in southern Europe and northern Africa (Beier, 1963). Its female holotype has recently been redescribed by Heurtault (1979).

3. The problem of the type species of *Olpium* L. Koch, 1873, is not resolved automatically by the International Code on Zoological Nomenclature. Article 69 does not apply to the case because even though the nominal taxon *Chelifer hermannii* Audouin, 1826, was originally included in *Olpium* by Koch, it was a misidentification, but not a *stated* misidentification. *Chelifer hermannii* Audouin *sensu* L. Koch, 1873, and *Obisium pallipes* Lucas, [1846], are not originally included species in terms of Article 69. Article 70a does not strictly apply either because the type species was designated explicitly in the sense of a previous misidentification. Similarly Article 70b is not applicable because *Chelifer hermannii* Audouin, 1826,

was not designated the type species of a new nominal genus, but of a pre-established nominal genus. Therefore, the Commission is requested to use its plenary powers to designate *Obisium pallipes* Lucas, [1846] as the type species of *Olpium* L. Koch, 1873.

4. Two other options are available, both of which have considerable disadvantages: (a) to designate the nominal species *Chelififer hermannii* Audouin, 1826, as type species — this is undesirable because *Chelififer hermannii* Audouin, 1826, is regarded as a *nomen dubium* (see (5) below); or (b) to set aside under the plenary powers Simon's (1879) designation of *Olpium hermanni* 'Savigny' *sensu* L. Koch, and to designate one of the other three species originally included in the genus *Olpium* L. Koch, 1873 — these three taxa have since been removed from the genus, and if this course were followed, stability would not be well served, because *Olpium* L. Koch, 1873, is the type species of the family OLPIIDAE Banks, 1895.

5. The type material of *Chelififer hermannii* Audouin, 1826, is not present in the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, and is considered lost. The diagrams presented with the original description (Plate 8, Fig. 5) clearly show that the species belongs in the genus *Minniza* Simon, 1881, but they are not sufficiently detailed to determine its specific identity, and four species of *Minniza* Simon, 1881, are currently known from Egypt. Thus, *Chelififer hermannii* Audouin, 1826, and its replacement name, *Olpium savignyi* Simon, 1879, are regarded as *nomina dubia*.

6. Simon (1881) described *Olpium kochi* Simon, 1881, and cited '*Chelififer Hermannii* Sav., Égypte, Ar., pl. VIII, f. 5, 1827' under the species name, thus giving the appearance that it was offered as another replacement name for *Chelififer hermannii* Audouin, 1826. Indeed, at the end of the description he stated 'Le nom d'*Hermannii* ne peut être maintenu, ayant été employé par Savigny par confusion avec le *C. Hermannii* de Leach, qui est synonyme de *C. cancroides* L.' If this interpretation is accepted *Olpium kochi* Simon, 1881, becomes a junior objective synonym of *Olpium savignyi* Simon, 1879. However, the specimens on which Simon (1881) based his description of *Olpium kochi* Simon, 1881 (lodged in the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, and examined by V.M.) do not conform to the original description or diagrams of *Chelififer hermannii* Audouin, 1826. They represent a distinct species of the genus *Olpium* L. Koch, 1873, and were recently redescribed by Mahnert (1981). If *Olpium kochi* Simon, 1881, can be treated as a new species separate from *Chelififer hermannii* Audouin, 1826 (even though Simon wrote '*Olpium kochi* E. Simon' rather than his customary 'n.sp.'), the specimens in Paris can be treated as its type material, as was done by Mahnert (1981). We consider that this is desirable and therefore ask the Commission to rule that *Olpium kochi* Simon, 1881 denotes a different nominal species from *Chelififer hermannii* Audouin, 1826. A lectotype male for *Olpium kochi* Simon, 1881, is here designated from 'nord de la grande Pyramide', Egypt, collected by A. Letourneux, and deposited in the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris (Simon collection number 3329, preparation number 84-86). The female is designated as a paralec-

to type. If this course is not followed, *Olpium kochi* Simon, 1881, remains a junior objective synonym of *Olpium savignyi* Simon, 1879, and a new species name needs to be created for this material.

7. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is hereby requested:

- (1) to use its plenary powers
 - (a) to set aside all designations of type species hitherto made for the nominal genus *Olpium* Koch, 1873 and to designate *Obisium pallipes* Lucas, 1849 as type species of that genus;
 - (b) to rule that the specific name *kochi* Simon, 1881, as published in the binomen *Olpium kochi*, denotes a different nominal species from *hermannii* Audouin, 1826, as published in the binomen *Chelifer hermannii*;
- (2) to place the generic name *Olpium* L. Koch, 1873 (gender: neuter), on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology, with the type species, as designated in (1) above, *Obisium pallipes* Lucas, 1849;
- (3) to place the specific name *pallipes* Lucas [1846], as published in the combination *Obisium pallipes*, (specific name of type species of *Olpium* L. Koch, 1873) on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology;
- (4) to place the specific name *kochi* Simon, 1881, as published in the combination *Olpium kochi* Simon, 1881, on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology;
- (5) to place the family-group name OLPIIDAE Banks, 1895 (type genus, *Olpium* L. Koch, 1873) on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology.

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